

KANSAS FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER



June 2012

Association of State Floodplain Managers Conference



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Floodplain Management Team members from the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources attended the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) annual conference in San Antonio, Texas, from May 20-25, 2012. The conference theme this year was "Mission Mitigation." Mitigation can be defined as a sustained action to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to human life and property from hazards.

More than 1200 participants attended in-depth workshops and supplemental field trips led by 250 industry experts speaking on topics including state-of-the-art techniques, programs, and resources to accomplish flood mitigation and watershed management. Floodplain Managers from Kansas attending the conference made contact with other officials at many of the networking activities such as the golf tournament for early arrivers and silent auction fundraiser for the ASFPM Foundation that supports research and education promoting wise floodplain management.

Certified Floodplain Managers who attended the conference got 12 Continuing Education Credits. Certified Floodplain Manager Steve Samuelson has been going to the ASFPM annual conference every year since 2005 and learns something new there every year. Visit the website www.floods.org for more information about the next conference.

Are the Boy Scouts on to Something?

"Always be prepared" is a good theme for Floodplain Managers as well as for the Boy Scouts. Floodplain Managers should prepare now for the flood that may happen in their community: It is too late to prepare for a disaster after the disaster happens.

How to prepare? Attend training now to know what to do when flooding occurs. Order the substantial damage estimator software from FEMA and practice using it. Have a plan for your family and for your job as well. It will be easier to help others knowing your own family is taken care of. Order books and handouts you may need after a flood in advance so that you'll have the materials to pass out. Learn where your flood prone areas are. Check on stream gages and add links to stream gages to your website so that your community can monitor for potential floods. Have a kit with the items you'll need for damage estimations after a disaster. Make contact with your Emergency Manager, County Appraiser, Building Inspector and other officials you will work with during a disaster event. A little effort now will make things a lot easier if a disaster happens.

One Percent Annual Chance Flood

The A, AH, AO and AE zones shown on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) depict a one percent annual chance flood. This is a flood that has a statistical chance of one out of one hundred in any given year. Some people break down that definition into fewer words and use the phrase “100-Year Flood”.

The danger behind the term 100-Year Flood is that some people will think of a flood in terms of a time line that happens once every 100 years. If they haven’t ever been flooded before, they mistakenly think that they will never be flooded. The more time that passes without a flood, the more convinced some people are that they are safe. Even people who have been flooded will sometimes think they are safe. They incorrectly assume that they have “had their flood” and another flood won’t happen for 100 years.

It is a challenge for floodplain managers to convince people to think in terms of statistical risk and not in terms of a time line. A flood can happen in any given year. Statistically, it is possible to have two of the one percent annual chance floods in back-to-back years.

Some of you reading this may be aware of an area that has flooded two years in a row or even twice in the same year. The photo at bottom shows a sign in a subdivision area near Andover called Wagon Wheel Ranch that flooded in 2008 and again in 2009. The city of Manhattan experienced flooding along Wildcat Creek in 2010 and again in 2011. These real examples, from right here in Kansas, show floods can happen more frequently than once in a hundred years.

Try to convince community officials and media not to use the phrase “100-Year Flood.” Use the phrase “one percent annual chance flood” in any forms of community outreach. Explain the risk and also that bigger floods can and do happen. If your citizens understand their risk better they will be more prepared.

Photo of a sign on a building in Butler County.



Extraterritorial Jurisdiction

Extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) is the legal ability of a government to exercise authority beyond its normal physical boundaries. Some cities in Kansas don't have an ETJ. Other cities have a well-defined ETJ area based on a legal description or exercise a set distance, such as a three mile limit.

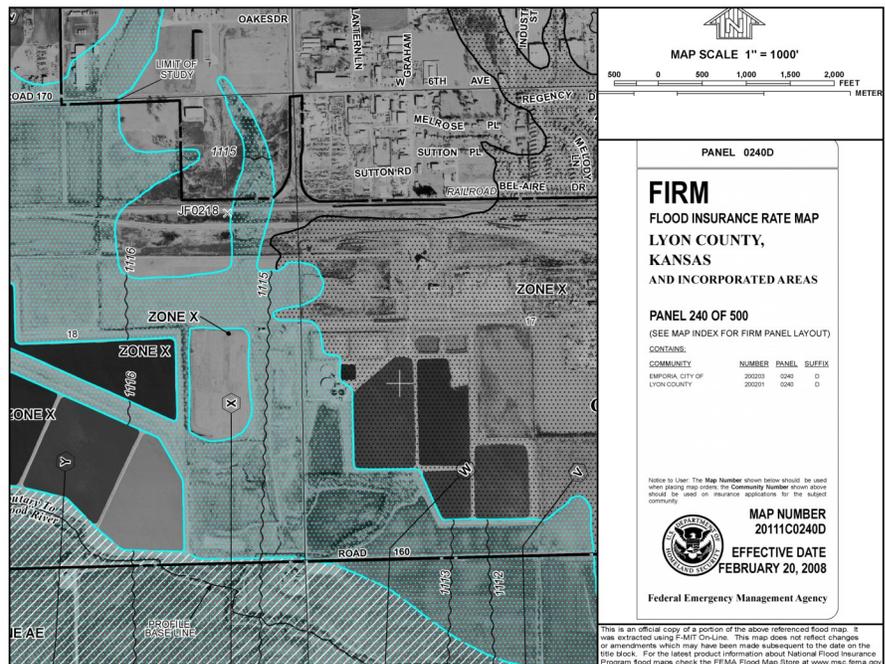
Staff at Division of Water Resources have become aware of potential problems with ETJ areas. Some cities that have an ETJ area assumed that their county government was doing floodplain management in the ETJ area. At the same time, the county officials thought the city government was responsible for floodplain management in the ETJ area. This confusion resulted in a lack of floodplain management in at least one ETJ area for one city.

K.S.A. 12-754 includes language about floodplain management in an ETJ. "Any flood plain zone or district shall include the flood plain area within the incorporated area of the city and may include any extraterritorial jurisdiction lying outside, but within three miles, of the nearest point on the contiguous city limits when such jurisdiction has not otherwise been designated a flood plain zone or district by any other governmental unit or subdivision."

City and county officials should have a clear understanding of floodplain management responsibility and tasks in ETJ areas. To do this, cities and counties need to communicate in language clear to all. In addition, some communities have incorporated language into floodplain management ordinances and resolutions to clarify jurisdiction and responsibility in ETJ areas.

The flood map at right shows an area where an ETJ appears on a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). The heavy black line in upper part of the map is the city limit boundary line. The heavy black line in the lower part of the map is the boundary of the ETJ area.

Does your floodplain management ordinance specify responsibilities in ETJ areas? Contact Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622 if you would like to update your regulations to clarify responsibility in ETJ areas. Please also contact Samuelson if your community has an ETJ area or adopts one in the future. We need to update information about ETJ areas for our data base.



FIRMette Tutorial

Many floodplain managers in Kansas know Sonja Wood from her classes about flood insurance. She would like you to know about a new online tutorial about FIRMettes, the small versions of a Flood Insurance Rate Map. Audio on your computer will be needed to hear Wood's voice as she explains how to make FIRMettes. View the tutorial at this link:

<https://fema.webex.com/fema/lsr.php?AT=pb&SP=TC&rID=20124677&act=pb&rKey=17e6ecab2a0012a0>

Training Opportunities

The Floodplain Management Program will host the following training sessions throughout Kansas. If you are interested in any of the no-cost training opportunities, please contact Tom Morey at 785-296-5440 or Steve Samuelson at 785-296-4622. A training registration form is in this newsletter.

Post Flood Responsibilities (Free)

This free class is intended for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management regulations. The course focuses on what to do during and after a disaster event. Topics include substantial damage, permitting, Increased Cost of Compliance and violations. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Abilene - Aug. 21, 2012 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Elevation Certificates and Letters Of Map Amendment (Free)

This free class is designed for community officials responsible for administering floodplain management as well as surveyors and engineers who complete Letters Of Map Amendment (LOMA) and Elevation Certificate forms. The course will focus on accurate completion of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) technical forms, building diagrams and base flood elevation. Approved 3.5 hours toward CFM. Limited to 20 participants.

- Parsons - Aug. 1, 2012 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Community Rating System E-278 (\$85.00 Fee Required)

This class is field deployed version of a class normally held at the Emergency Management Institute in Maryland. Instructors from Insurance Service Office and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will come to Kansas to teach a 4-day class on the Community Rating System (CRS). This class will also cover recent changes to the CRS program. Contact Steve Samuelson at steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov or 785-296-4622 for the full training announcement and registration information. Registration is through the Wyandotte County Unified Government, which has agreed to host the class.

- Kansas City - September 24-27, 2012

Email saves money on postage. The electronic newsletter also has links and the photos are in color. If you are getting this newsletter by postal mail and would prefer email, please contact Steve Samuelson at steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov.

The Division of Water Resources newsletter "Currents" can be read on line at:

<http://www.ksda.gov/dwr/content/314>

Mark your calendar. The Kansas Association for Floodplain Management 2012 conference will be September 5 and 6 in Hutchinson. More information will be posted at the website www.ekafm.org. Registration will be done through a link on the website. If you have questions about registration, please contact Jon Bristor, Treasurer, at 620-326-2207.

Kansas Department of Agriculture
Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Program
Training Registration Form

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Name, date and location of training you will attend _____

*Please share this invitation with anyone else who could benefit from the training.

**Classroom locations will be sent to registered participants one week before the training.

Please mail or fax your registration to:

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
109 SW 9th STREET, 2nd FLOOR
TOPEKA, KS 66612-1283
Fax to: 785-296-1176

If you have questions about training, please contact Steve Samuelson by email at steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov or by phone 785-296-4622, or contact Tom Morey at tom.morey@kda.ks.gov and 785-296-5440.

Please help us keep our records current. If the name that appears on this newsletter is for an individual no longer with your organization, please call 785-296-4622, or send an e-mail to steve.samuelson@kda.ks.gov to report the change.

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Division of Water Resources
Floodplain Management
109 SW 9th St 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1283

ASFPM 2013 National Conference in Connecticut

The 2013 Association of State Floodplain Managers National Conference will be June 9-14, 2013 in Hartford, Connecticut. This conference is an excellent opportunity for floodplain managers to receive training on mapping technologies, regulations, permitting, outreach and best practices. Estimated to be attended by more than 1,000 floodplain management professionals, this conference is great chance to meet people for networking and to learn the latest news in floodplain management.

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